

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): An apparatus for depositing particulate matter onto a supply of absorbent core fibrous substrate material moving in a machine direction comprising:

- a feed tray having an inlet for receiving a supply of particulate matter;

- a shuttle pan slideably positioned to form at least part of a lower pan of the feed tray;

- the shuttle pan having an outlet edge located proximal the supply of absorbent core fibrous substrate material, the outlet edge being located so that the supply of particulate matter passes over the outlet edge to exit the feed tray and be deposited on the supply of absorbent core fibrous substrate material;

- the shuttle pan having a range of motion comprising a forward stroke and a backward stroke, wherein during the forward stroke the outlet edge follows the supply of absorbent core fibrous substrate material; and

- a mechanism for moving the shuttle pan through its range of motion;

- wherein the supply of absorbent core fibrous material is conveyed by a conveying mechanism that is offset from the outlet edge by an offset distance; and

- wherein the conveying mechanism is a combining drum.

Claims 12-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the supply of particulate matter is a supply of superabsorbent particles.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the supply of absorbent core fibrous substrate material comprises a supply of cellulose acetate tow.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the shuttle pan forms substantially all of the lower pan of the feed tray.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the offset distance is from about 0.25 inches to about 4.00 inches.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the offset distance is from about 0.375 inches to about 1.00 inch.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the offset distance is ~~from~~ about 0.50 inches.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the conveying mechanism is substantially parallel to the shuttle pan.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the range of motion traverses a stroke distance of from about 2 inches to about 13 inches.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the range of motion traverses a stroke distance of from about 4 inches to about 11 inches.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the range of motion traverses a stroke distance of from about 6 inches to about 9 inches.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein feed tray is a vibratory feed tray.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the feed tray is a fixed feed tray.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising a metered flow device for conveying particulate matter to the inlet.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the metered flow device is an auger-type feeder.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the amount of particulate matter deposited from the feed tray is controlled by a loss-in-weight control system.